(b) if so, the reasons for holding back funds; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to get the funds relaesed at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU): (a) to (c). World Wildlife Fund (WWF)—International does not provide any assistance for Tiger. conversation either to Union or State Governments in India. WWF—International was supporting the tiger conversation programme run by WWF—India under which financial Assistance was provided to State Govt. for supplementing national tiger conversation efforts. WWF—International made to request to Government of India that they would like to have a Regional Office at New Delhi to support Tiger Conservation efforts in India and neighbouring countries. The Ministry of Environment and Forests being satisfied with the profile of the then Director, Tiger Conservation programme and WWF—International Issued a no objection certificate to this project. The no objection certificate had to be withdrawn later on account of some inaccuracies about geographical boundaries of India on several publications made by WWF—International and allied institutions. These inaccuracies were brought to the notice of the Ministry of Environment and Forests by the then Secretary General, WWF—India. The WWF—International was upset by these steps. There has been a definite decline in the activities of WWF India—Tiger Conversation Programme after October, 1999. Involvement of the representatives of Government of India in programme formulation has also ceased after October, 1999.

U.P. Forestry Project in Uttaranchal

†4341. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1425, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 2001, and state;

(a) the details of the amount being spent in Uttaranchal under the World Bank assisted U.P. Forestry Project, item-wise and year-wise; and

(b) its impact on the forests as well as on society in Uttaranchal?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU): (a) Item-wise and year-wise details of the amount agreed to for Uttaranchal after the bifurcation of World Bank assisted U.P. Forestry Project is under:

†Original notice of the question was received [illegible]

(Rs. in million)

Component	Financial Year 2000-01	financial Year 2001-02	Total
Institutional Development	92	75	167
Forest Development	322	333	655
Research and Technology	24	2-	48
Bio-diversity Conservation	62	67	129
Total	500	499	999

(b) The project is expected to have positive impact on the conservatic and development of forests through people's participation.

Illegal Felling of Trees by MAFIA

4342. DR Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forests mafia are indulging in illegal felling of trees, causing damage to the environment, especially in Punjab, Uttaranchal, etc.;

(b) if so, the action taken against those involved and the officials punished for dereliction of duty; and

(c) the new thrust proposed for afforestation projects throughout the country, with the co-operation of State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Central and State Governments have taken steps under various plan schemes to plant trees on Government and private lands with a view to increasing the forests/tree cover and to ensure amelioration of environment. The total State sector outlays for forests during the year 2000-2001, as approved by the Planning Commission is Rs.1393 crores, around 60% of which is spent on afforestation and regeneration activities. An amount of Rs.500 crores has also